

The Common Council of the City of Knox met in regular session at the Knox City Hall on Tuesday June 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM CST with the following members present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Councilmembers, Greg Matt, Linda Berndt, Jeff Berg, Ron Parker, Don Kring; and City Attorney, Dave Matsey. Mayor, Rick Chambers, was absent. Council President, Greg Matt, conducted the meeting.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the councilmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Linda Berndt made a motion seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 2014 SALARY ORDINANCE #1137 - 2ND READING

Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston, presented corrected copies of Salary Ordinance #1137 to the Council. Jeff Berg made a motion seconded by Linda Berndt to approve Salary Ordinance #1137 with corrections on second reading by title only. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: BUILDING PERMIT FEE DISCUSSION

Clerk-Treasurer Houston read a report from the Mayor outlining a building permit fee amount issue. In August of 2012 a building permit was issued by former Building Inspector, Greg Matt for Sandra and Phillip Shepherd, 3800 East Mae Delano Drive. The permit was for a 24 X 40 ft addition to an existing pole barn and was charged \$192.00. The homeowner was told by the contractor that built the pole barn that normally permits are only \$75.00 and not \$192.00 (.20¢ a square foot times 960 square feet) for an Accessory building.

Council President Greg explained the building permit was an addition not an agricultural pole barn. This is paid by square foot. Mr. Matt said it needs to go to the Board of Works and if a refund is issued it should come from the general fund since that is where the money was deposited. Attorney Matsey said the question is whether the council should re-visit the fees that are charged. Councilman Jeff Berg wanted it noted that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday July 2nd and will discuss at length the permit fees. They will report back to the council. No official action was taken.

RE: CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Houston presented the May garbage and recycling report. He also reported on the year to date totals. The solid Environmental Management district has been invoiced for \$6,500.00 for the refund for the recycling rebate.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston passed out a tentative calendar for the budget process this year. This calendar will need to be agreed to by DLGF representative Kurt Ott on July 16th.

Clerk-Treasurer Houston passed out copies of the form ones with budget numbers for the different departments. He told the council that once the budget is published, the council can only agree to the amount in each department or cut them, but not increase the amount.

RE: CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Dave Matsey reported that he attended the Municipal Attorneys Conference. One of the issues discussed was the utility termination notices. He has some suggestions for this. Also discussed was public forums and facebook editing on City sponsored sites.

The lease on the City Annex building to Nipsco is up. The City Attorney has researched the procedure to sign another lease. The first step in the procedure is to designate a disposal agent. An appraisal needs to be done and the publishing of a notice of bids.

Don Kring made a motion to designate the "purchasing agent" (Mayor Chambers) as the "disposal agent" for the Annex Nipsco rental unit. Linda Berndt seconded the motion. Motion passed with Five (5) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MAYOR'S REPORT

The Clerk-Treasurer read the following Mayor's report to the Council:

Mayor Chambers issued a proclamation for pastor George Heyboer for his 30 years of service to his Church and the City of Knox.

The Street Department has applied for a grant for \$2,681.00 for railroad crossing signs. The City applied last year, but the program ran out of money.

Insurance Services Offices last visited Knox in 2002 for an evaluation for insurance companies. Their rating determines the insurance rates for the Citizens of Knox. They will meet with the Building Commissioner in September.

This spring the schools of Starke County took an IREAD test. This test gauges the reading proficiency of 3rd graders. The following is the result:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------|
| Oregon Davis | 40 took test | 36 passed | 90.0% |
| NJ - SP | 83 took test | 72 passed | 86.7% |
| Knox | 144 took test | 130 passed | 90.3% |
| Indiana Average | | | 86.1% |

RE: COUNCIL ITEMS

Don Kring said that he has an issue with the new four way stop sign at the corner of East and Washington. He believes the trees need to be trimmed to make the signs more visible. It is especially bad going South on East Street.

Councilman Matt noted the lack of progress on the demolition of the old laundromat. City Attorney Matsey said future contracts will call for a time limit. More time was allowed for this demolition because of the salvaging being done thus lowering the cost. It was noted that the same company was bidding on the 2 & 4 N Main demolition. Several Council people voiced concern about whether they could or should handle another project. Councilperson Berndt suggested setting an August 1st deadline for completion.

Councilman Matt voiced concern about the obstruction of the intersection at Portland and Lafayette due to brush on the North East corner. City Attorney Matsey said it is a violation of the zoning ordinance and a ticket needs to be written.

Councilman Matt said we have people parking on the sidewalks again and parking the wrong direction. City Attorney Matsey noted that some of these issues are covered by state law and officers could write tickets.

Councilman Matt and Berndt also noted curfew ordinances are not being enforced six to eight year olds as well as young teens are congregations uptown late at night. It was also noted that several fights have occurred recently in the downtown area.

Councilman Matt said he had received several phone calls about a house with drug activity. City Attorney Matsey said it is possible to designate the home a public nuisance and hold the landlord responsible.

RE: VOUCHERS AND ALLOWANCES

The following properly filed vouchers (see Voucher Docket Book, Voucher #16812 - #16877 inclusive) were presented and approved.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Greg Matt, Council President

Attest:

Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer